

**MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING - RIVERBOAT
OPEN SESSION
June 26, 2014
ILLINOIS GAMING BOARD
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS**

NOTE: ITEMS IN **BOLDFACE PRINT** REFLECT OFFICIAL BOARD ACTIONS

On Thursday, June 29, 2014 a Regular Meeting - Riverboat of the Illinois Gaming Board ("Board") was held on the 5th floor at 160 N. LaSalle at the Michael J. Bilandic Building, Chicago, Illinois at 10:27 A.M. Present were the following: Chairman Aaron Jaffe, Members Maribeth Vander Weele and Michael Holewinski.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES – Open Session

Member Vander Weele moved that **the Board approve the open session minutes of its Regular Meeting of May 29, 2014.** Member Holewinski seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

DISSEMINATION OF MINUTES –

Member Vander Weele moved that **the Board approve the dissemination of the Closed Session Minutes of meetings from January 2013 through March 2014.** Member Holewinski seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

PUBLIC COMMENTARY –

Tom Swoik, Illinois Casino Gaming Association –

The Illinois Casino Gaming Association in the past has not been opposed to some form of reasonable expansion; however, the Illinois Legislature has already approved an expansion of gaming, what we are talking about in the latest expansion bills is expansion upon expansion. The Illinois gaming world has changed dramatically over the past year and a half, every month we are seeing over 850 new slots machines, that translates to a new casino opening every month. Gaming revenues statewide for the original 9 casinos are down nearly 43% since 2007 including a decrease of over 7% since slot machines were expanded to our neighborhood taverns, VFW halls and truck stops.

For example, the revenues at the Harrah's Joliet, Hollywood Joliet and Hollywood Aurora casinos have dropped 47%, 45% and 48% respectively since 2007 and over 4.5%, 7.2% and 13% respectively last year. Even more alarming, the revenues at the Elgin casino have dropped over 55.5% since 2007 and over 8.5% last year.

Expansion is already occurring in Illinois and the new state sanctioned gaming is having a negative effect on the existing casinos.

Some have said that the new slot machines in our neighborhoods are just replacing the old gray machines. This is not true; these slots represent state sanctioned gaming and are having an effect on the market.

There is no doubt that the casino industry simply underestimated the impact of these machines on our industry. To compound the effect, these machines are being operated in venues the original legislation never anticipated, flower shops, scuba shops, gas stations. Let me be clear, this is not an accusation that the IGB is approving any venues that do not qualify, but simply complying with the law. However, we worked aggressively during the last session to introduce some changes in the law to limit these types of venues. Due to the complicated nature of these changes we were unsuccessful. We intend to continue to do so in the future and it is our preference to work with you and your staff to introduce changes that are easily enforceable and make sense.

One of the other areas we attempted to clarify was related to responsible gaming and self-exclusion. We requested that all video venues be required to include references to gambling problems in all written and marketing materials, similar to what we are required to do.

One of the issues we are most concerned about is the mass marketing mailings that are being sent to large numbers of the public. As I'm sure you are aware many of these mailing offer free or bonus play.

The casinos originally operating in Illinois each had their own self-exclusion programs prior to the implementation of the state self-exclusion program. Additionally, we were and continue to be, very supportive of the state operated self-exclusion program, including revising our incentive programs for staff identifying self excluded persons. The problem is this---we must comply with the requirements of the self-exclusion program but, video gaming establishments are not required to do this.

If we send promotions to a self-excluded person, we are fined. The video gaming operations sending mass mailings currently have no way of knowing if a self excluded individual is on their list. There has to be some way to address this issue.

Finally, while we understand that the self-exclusion applications reference only casino gaming and not video gaming venues. Various gaming boards have made this program one of their highest priorities, as well it should, and the casino industry has been supportive of this priority.

We would request that the board continue to study this issue to determine how to best protect those individuals who have reached out for help through the self-exclusion program.

My members have directed me to offer our help to work with you and your staff to figure out some remedy to this problem.

ITEM FOR INITIAL CONSIDERATION –

- Empress Casino Joliet Corporation d/b/a Hollywood Casino Joliet – Initial Consideration of Owner’s License Renewal.

Empress Casino Joliet Corporation d/b/a Hollywood Casino Joliet presented an informational video referencing their license Joliet property.

OCCUPATIONAL LICENSE APPROVALS AND DENIALS –

- Based on staff’s investigation, Member Holewinski **moved that the Board find suitable and approve 55 applications for Level 2 Occupational Licenses, 99 applications for Level 3 Occupational Licenses and issue a Notice of Denial to Deyonous Moore.** Member Vander Weele seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

ADMINISTRATIVE REQUESTS FOR HEARING/REQUESTS TO REAPPLY –

- **In Re: the Disciplinary Action of Kenneth King – DC-13-07**
Pursuant to Rule 1155, Member Vander Weele **moved to adopt a Final Board Order, in part adopting the Administrative Law Judge’s Recommendation. Further, pursuant to Rule 140, Kenneth King is hereby fined \$500.** Member Holewinski seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion unanimously by roll call vote.

At 10:50 A.M. Member Holewinski motioned to adjourn and Member Vander Weele seconded the motion. All Members voted in favor of adjournment.

Respectfully submitted,
Mary C. Boruta
Secretary to the Administrator